

## What's the difference? Present Perfect and Past Simple

Present Perfect Simple	Past Simple
Unfinished actions that started in the past and continue to the present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I <b>'ve known</b> Julie for ten years (and I still know her).</li></ul>	Finished actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I <b>knew</b> Julie for ten years (but then she moved away and we lost touch).</li></ul>
A finished action in someone's life (when the person is still alive: life experience): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>My brother <b>has been</b> to Mexico three times.</li></ul>	A finished action in someone's life (when the person is dead): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>My great-grandmother <b>went</b> to Mexico three times.</li></ul>
A finished action with a result in the present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I <b>'ve lost</b> my keys! (The result is that I can't get into my house now).</li></ul>	A finished action with no result in the present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I <b>lost</b> my keys yesterday. It was terrible! (Now there is no result. I got new keys yesterday).</li></ul>
With an unfinished time word (this week, this month, today): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I <b>'ve seen</b> John this week.</li></ul>	With a finished time word (last week, last month, yesterday): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I <b>saw</b> John last week.</li></ul>

[Click here for more information about the present perfect tense](#)

[Click here for more information about the past simple tense](#)

**Remember:**

1. We use the past simple for past events or actions which have no connection to the present.
2. We use the present perfect for actions which started in the past and are still happening now OR for finished actions which have a connection to the present.
3. We CAN'T use the present perfect with a finished time word:
  - NOT: I've been to the museum yesterday.

- [Present perfect or past simple exercise 1](#)
- [Present perfect or past simple exercise 2](#)
- [Present perfect or past simple exercise 3](#)
- [Present perfect or past simple exercise 4](#)

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**PRESENT PERFECT OR PAST SIMPLE 1**

Fill in the blank with the present perfect or the past simple.

- I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) to Malaysia.
- When \_\_\_\_\_ (she / meet) him?
- How long \_\_\_\_\_ (he / be) 87?
- I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) home early yesterday.
- How long \_\_\_\_\_ (we / own) our car?
- When \_\_\_\_\_ (she / graduate) from university?
- What time \_\_\_\_\_ (the children / go) to bed?
- She \_\_\_\_\_ (not / write) a book last summer.
- He \_\_\_\_\_ (drink) too much coffee last week.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (she / ever / try) snowboarding?
- How long \_\_\_\_\_ (you / live) in Madrid?
- \_\_\_\_\_ (you / ever / be) to Russia?
- We \_\_\_\_\_ (not / go) to the party last weekend.
- When \_\_\_\_\_ (you / go) home?
- \_\_\_\_\_ (you / eat) goat?
- You \_\_\_\_\_ (want) a laptop for a year.
- She \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a phone since 1998.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ (not / see) Lucy yesterday.
- What time \_\_\_\_\_ (you / have) breakfast?
- \_\_\_\_\_ (he / ever / play) chess?

[Check](#)

**Perfect English Grammar** AU2 Verb Tenses Exercises

**13: Present continuous or present simple 1: static vs dynamic**

Make the present continuous if you can. Otherwise, make the present simple. Watch out for static verbs!

- He \_\_\_\_\_ (live) London at the moment.
- She \_\_\_\_\_ (work) at the moment.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ (like) these colors.
- My son \_\_\_\_\_ (look) at his teeth.
- They \_\_\_\_\_ (use / eat) enough vegetables these days.
- What \_\_\_\_\_ (you / do) tomorrow?
- \_\_\_\_\_ (you / know) your neighbors?
- \_\_\_\_\_ (they / live) at the moment?
- I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the cinema twice a week.
- When \_\_\_\_\_ (this road / finish)?
- They \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) to the station now.
- We \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) tonight.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ (not / understand).
- I \_\_\_\_\_ (not / see) a car just now.
- She \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) in the garden.
- He \_\_\_\_\_ (want) a new laptop at the moment.
- What \_\_\_\_\_ (you / need) today?
- He \_\_\_\_\_ (read) a lot these days.
- This bag \_\_\_\_\_ (belong) to Lucy.
- Julia \_\_\_\_\_ (not / have) all summer.

**10: MIXED REAL CONDITIONALS**

[Watch Real Conditionals](#)

[Download the explanation in PDF form](#)

*For example, if John has sent my message...*

**Exercise Progress**

**Exercise Contents**

- 1. Present Real Conditional
- 2. Past Real Conditional
- 3. Future Real Conditional
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